



Report of Accomplishments

Fiscal Year 2005

Gooding Soil Conservation District

Address 820 Main St.

Gooding, ID 83330

Telephone Number 208-934-8481 extension 100

Point of Contact Kay Hults

Counties Served Gooding County

Legislative District(s) Legislative District 25

Conservation District Mission

“Educate Don’t Legislate”

Natural Resource Improvements Summary

The District has put in two more windbreaks in the Trees Against the Wind Program, a program designed for multiple improvements including wildlife habitat, clean air, safety for the motoring public, and a hands-on learning experience for the fourth grade students who participated in a classroom demonstration on proper planting techniques and the benefits of trees and windbreaks followed by an afternoon planting hundreds of junipers, lilacs and other species. The Miles and Pavkov windbreaks (2,500 linear feet) bring the total windbreaks currently in the program to eight with a total of 19,570 linear feet of windbreak trees. Other windbreaks that have been planted through District projects not included in the Trees Against the Wind Program total an additional 60,666 linear feet.



Conservation District Priority # 1 - Water Quality

The District adopted and reviewed BMPs from the Natural Resource Conservation Service handbook, promoted RCRDP loans, completed various presentations to groups regarding water quality. Over forty RCRDP, EQIP, surface to sprinkler conversion and windbreak projects done in the last ten years have contributed to the improvement of water quality in this District thereby translating into implementing TMDL load requirements before those requirements were provided.

Conservation District Priority #2 Information and Education

Little City of Rocks Workshop for Fifth graders in Gooding and Camas Counties – the District sponsors, organizes, prepares booklets and a newsletter for 250 students. This year the District staff presented the archeology station, grinding grain with a mano and matate and throwing spears with an atlatle. The other stations are Geology, Paleontology, Wildlife and Water Awareness, all taught by agency experts.

Poster Contest – District staff gave a “Celebrating Conservation” presentation with hands-on activities to all fifth grader students in the District with cash and trophy prizes to the top three winners.

Speech Contest- Celebrating Conservation was the theme for the speech contest and the District presented cash awards to the top two speakers who then went on the division level.

Soil Evaluation Event – Gooding SCD contributes a cash donation to the event held in Burley. The Gooding High School FFA team took first place last year and went on to the national event held in Oklahoma.

Forestry Contest- The District supports this program held in northern Idaho with a cash donation. When Trees Against the Wind: The 4th grade class at Wendell planted both the Miles & Pavkov windbreaks, they were given a classroom presentation by District staff on the value of trees, how to plant a tree, and taking pride in a job well done. The District newsletter was sent out twice to a total of 6,579 rural box holders. The Nature Hike newsletter was given to 250 students, teachers, and administrators.

Conservation District Priority # 3 To Improve Water Quality in the District

In fiscal year 2005, the District entered into a 319 Grant sub-agreement with DEQ to address the high nitrate levels in the Bliss Nitrate Project area. The first year of this year-year project was dedicated to collecting baseline data on irrigation practices, crop rotations and fertilizer rates and timing. Soil samples were taken throughout the crop season on multiple fields and water samples were taken on designated wells and surface waters. The technician worked with 100% of the landowners in the project area who are participating voluntarily with the goal of reducing the nitrates found in the groundwater.

Community Collaboration & Coordination

The Gooding Soil Conservation District presented hands on training in clean water, geology, paleontology, archeology and wildlife to 250 fifth graders and teachers at the Little City of Rocks Workshop. Idaho Fish and Game, Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument, North Side Canal Company and NRCS provided training at the Little City of Rocks Workshop

They also presented a hands-on demonstration of the concept of conservation to 250 fifth graders in Gooding through the poster contest. Those schools are the Wendell Middle School, Gooding Middle School, Bliss Grade School, Hagerman Elementary School and the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind.

The Gooding Soil Conservation District partnered with the Gooding High School and provided three Envirothon teams, one of which won the state competition and went on to compete at the national competition in North Carolina in August.

The Gooding Soil Conservation District worked with Idaho Dept of Ag, DEQ, and NRCS, and University of Idaho Extension Service on the Bliss Nitrate Project during the year.

Synopsis of Assistance Coordinated for Constituents with Conservation Partners - to plan, design and implement best management practices to protect, enhance, and conserve Idaho's renewable natural resources.

Source	Purpose/Benefit	Funded Amount
DEQ	Clean water	\$ 3,360.00
NRCS	Clean water	\$ 184,515.00
Gooding County	District Operations	\$ 4,000.00
State of Idaho	RCRDP contracts (29)	\$ 693,076.68
State of Idaho	District Operations	\$ 10,117.55
Total		\$ 895,069.23

Gooding Soil Conservation District assisted landowners & operators with their conservation choices at the Thousand Springs Festival in Hagerman by displaying information regarding nitrates in groundwater and the use of biological controls on specific noxious weeds through the Southern Idaho Bio-Control Program sponsored by the Gooding Soil Conservation District.

